

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A method for reducing allergy comprising administering, to a subject in need of such reduction, an effective dose of an antiallergic agent comprising, as an active ingredient, lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, lactic acid bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus fermentum*, and combinations thereof.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said lactic acid bacteria are capable of reducing, when administered orally, antigen-specific IgE level in blood in a mouse rhinitis model wherein antigen-specific IgE level in blood has been elevated by nasally exposing the mouse to continuous antigen stimulation.

13-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A method for reducing allergy comprising administering, to a subject in need of such reduction, an effective dose of an antiallergenic agent comprising, as an active ingredient, lactic acid bacteria of the strain *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL0062 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-4980).

21. (New) A method for reducing allergy comprising administering, to a subject in need of such reduction, an effective dose of an antiallergenic agent comprising, as an active ingredient,

lactic acid bacteria of the strain *Lactobacillus acidophilus* CL92 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-4981).

22. (New) A method for reducing allergy comprising administering, to a subject in need of such reduction, an effective dose of an antiallergenic agent comprising, as an active ingredient, lactic acid bacteria of the strain *Lactobacillus fermentum* CP34 (deposited at International Patent Organism Depositary, FERM BP-8383).